

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IOE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-09 EUR-12

NEA-10 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00

NSCE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 /116 W

-----024419 121900Z /43

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9091

INFO USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 5285

UNCLAS GENEVA 5709

S/IL FOR DALE GOOD; IO FOR ASST SEC MAYNES AND PALMER;  
PASS LABOR FOR SECRETARY MARSHALL, HOROWITZ AND ILAB; COMMERCE  
FOR SECRETARY KREPS AND UPTON

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECOSOC, ELAB, UN

SUBJECT: 63RD ECOSOC: ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL'S COMMENTS ON POLITICIZATI  
ON

OF UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

1. ILO DIREGEN BLANCHARD MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON POLITI-  
CIZATION OF UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES DURING HIS GENERAL DEBATE  
SPEECH MORNING OF JULY 12:

BEGIN TEXT

THE 63RD SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE HAS JUST  
ENDED. ALTHOUGH EVERYONE AGREES THAT THE CONFERENCE DID EXCELLENT  
TECHNICAL WORK, THERE IS NO DENYING THAT IT FAILED TO AVOID GRAVE  
DIFFERENCES OF OPINION ON SUCH IMPORTANT MATTERS AS HUMAN RIGHTS CON-  
VENTIONS. FOR WONT OF THE QUORUM - AND THIS WAS A GREAT PITY -  
THE CONFERENCE FAILED TO ACT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE TO IT  
BY THE COMPETENT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE.

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THIS OUTCOME IS IN LINE WITH A TREND WHICH IS GAINING GROUND IN  
ALL THE SPECIALISED AGENCIES AND WHICH THE PRESS SUMS UP IN ONE  
WORD - THE GROWING "POLITICISATION" OF THE UNITED NATIONS.  
AS MY COLLEAGUE MR. M'BOW, THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF UNESCO, SAID  
A FEW DEAYS AGO AT THE FOURTEENTH SUMMIT MEETING OF THE ORGANISATION  
OF

AFRICAN UNITY AT LIVERELLE: "THERE ARE AT THE PRESENT MOMENT CERTAIN  
THREATS HANGING OVER THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AND IN PARTICULAR  
OVERTHE SPECIALISED AGENCIES WHICH FORM  
PART OF THE SYSTEM... TODAY IT IS THE ILO WHICH IS FACED WITH PROBLEM  
S  
SIMILAR TO THOSE WHICH UNESCO HAD HAD TO FACE." AND MR.IB'BOW  
WENT ON TO SAY: "TOMORROW IT MAY BE THE TURN OF ANOTHER ORGANISATION.  
"

MR. CHAIRMAN, THE SPECIALISED AGENCIES WERE SET UP AND, I FEEL,  
ARE WELL FITTED TO DEAL WITH QUESTIONS WITHIN THEIR SPHERE  
OF COMPETENCE. WHEN SUCH QUESTIONS ARE BEING DEALT WITH,  
AND EVEN WHEN THEY RAISE POLITICAL PROBLEMS, IT IS ONLY PROPER FOR  
EACH AGENCY TO TRY TO STUDY THEM AND SETTLE THEM AS BEST IT CAN  
AND WITH STRICT RESPECT FOR ITS PROCEDURES. BUT THE SPECIALISED  
AGENCIES ARE NEITHER COMPETENT NOR FITTED  
TO DEAL WITH MAJOR POLITICAL QUESTIONS WHICH CONCERN SUCH MATTERS  
AS THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND WHICH ARE LINKED TO SITUATIONS OUTSID  
E  
THEIR SPHERE OF COMPETENCE. I NEED HARDLY ADD THAT THE COMPOSITION OF  
OUR ASSEMBLIES, AND ESPECIALLY THAT OF THE ILO, WHICH BRINGS TO-  
GETHER NOT ONLY GOVERNMENT BUT ALSO EMPLOYER AND WORKER REPRESENTA-  
TIVES, DOES NOT EQUIP THEM TO DEAL WITH PURELY POLITICAL PROBLEMS -  
AS AGAINST PROBLEMS WHICH, THOUGH THEY MAY HAVE SOME POLITICAL  
BEARING OR POLITICAL EFFECTS, CLEARLY DO FALL WITHIN THEIR  
COMPETENCE. SURELY EVERYONE REALISES THAT THE CONSENSUS REACHED  
ON THE AIMS AND WORK OF THE SPECIALISED AGENCIES WOULD BE IN SERIOUS  
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DANGER  
IF THOSE AGENCIES GAVE IN TO THE TEMPTATION OF DEALING  
WITH QUESTIONS OUTSIDE THEIR COMPETENCE.

THAT IS WHY, MR. CHAIRMAN, JUST BEFORE THE END OF THE SESSION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE I APPEALED TO MEMBER STATED TO  
RESPECT THE ILO'S MANDATE PROCEDURES AND PRINCIPLES AND SEEK NOT  
JUST TO MAINTAIN BUT TO STRENGTHEN THE CONDITIONS REQUIRED TO  
PRESERVE IT UNIVERSAL CHARACTER. I NEED HARLDLY SAY HOW  
FERVENTLY I HOPE THAT MY APPEAL WILL BE HEARD NOT ONLY BY  
ALL ILO MEMBER STATES BAR NONE,IBUT ALSO BY THE STATES WHICH ARE  
MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL AND OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND SO  
ACTION CAN BE TAKEN IN THE AGENCIES AND IN THE UNITED NATIONS TO  
ENABLE THE AGENCIES TO CARRY OUT THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES, BUT  
ONLY THOSE RESPONSIBILITIES, AND TO ENABLE THE POLITICAL  
BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO DEAL WITH GENUINELY POLITICAL  
PROBLEMS AFFECTING THE SYSTEM AS A WHOLE.  
END TEXT  
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## Message Attributes

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**Office:** ACTION IO  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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